HAROLD WEISBERG

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Dear Mr. Lelyveld, 4/26/94

When I sent you a copy of the Selections from my first five books on the JFK assassination several months ago I said that Gerald Posner's knowingly mistitled Case Closed is the most dishonest book in the field, a field in which competition for that distinction is tough.

I also then said that the Times had suckered itself in what it did not do and say about him and his book.

Knowing that it can mean nothing for me but in the hope that you or someone there might just like to know that you did sucker yourselves and in that abandoned what once were at least the norms I send you herewith my Case Open.

It is only 20 to 25% of what I wrote and as casual observation reflects, was published in haste. But for the content I make no apology. It is ever so much less than what I wrote and what I wrote is far from all that was immediately obvious to anyone with any grasp of the material.

But if anyone does care about what the Times did to itself and what I'd like to believe are its standards, this can give you an indication.

Of course I mean also what it did to its trusting readers and to our history, the Times being proud, not without cause, of being the paper of record.

If you'd like to make an easy check on whether the man whose touting of himself as a "Wall Street ~~law~~ lawyer" you used ever was, check the indices. It was done for me and does not show that he ever filed a case. Or took one to trial.

What he actually did is a little discovery work for the Cravath firm in an IBM case.

His major "discovery" that excited the Times and all others who suddenly forgot that there is such a thing as checking, made possible only by his skilled use of the most modern computer technology, was actually cribbed from the faulty work of a boy, from the syndicated article he wrote about it as a college freshman at Brown, and that boy's "discovery" was with his unaided eye.

Perhaps the time may yet come when the media will look back on its record of what it did and did not do at that time of great crisis and since then, will recognize failure and insistence upon continuing to fail, and then no longer treat this most terrible thing that happened as a shibboleth and treat it as news is treated.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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